

The President's Daily Brief

10 October 1969

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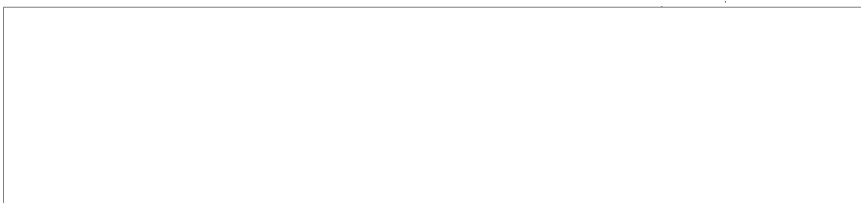
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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS



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The Chinese Communists may be preparing to resume roadbuilding in northern Laos. (*Page 2*)

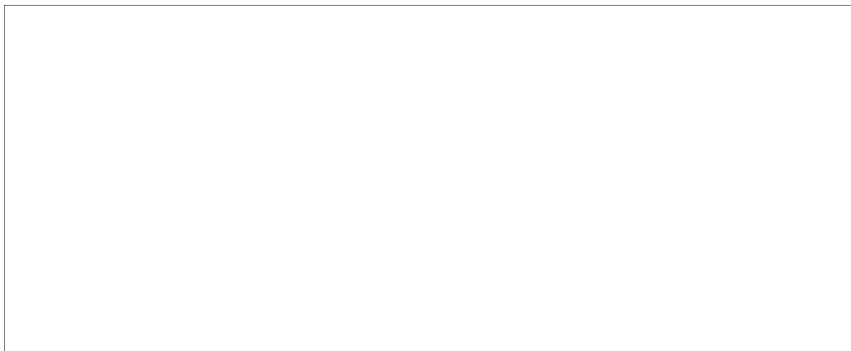
Xuan Thuy is on his way back to Paris. (*Page 3*)

King Husayn is again taking a tougher attitude toward the fedayeen. (*Page 5*)

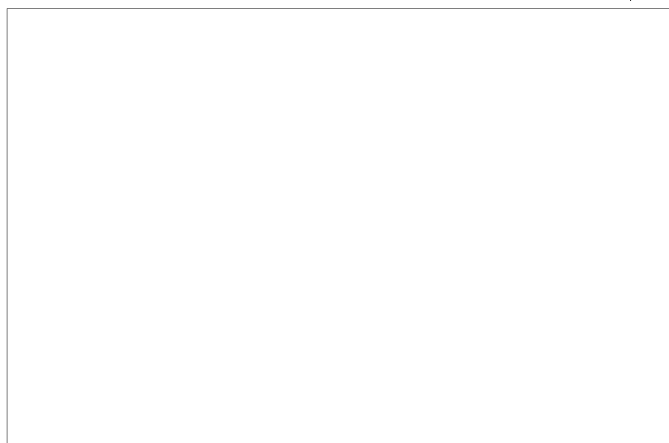
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CAMBODIA-VIETNAM

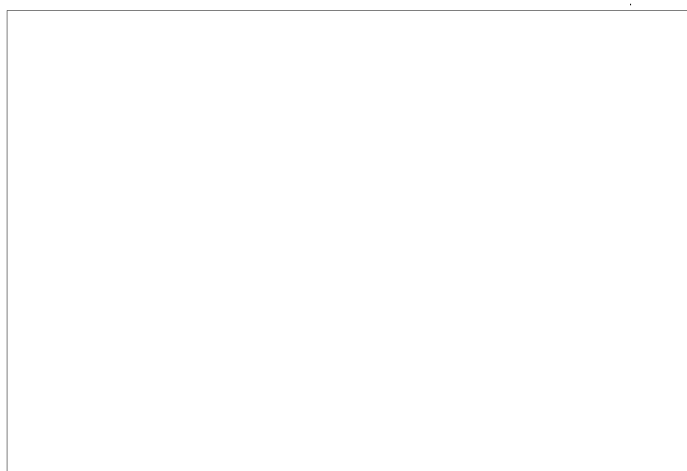


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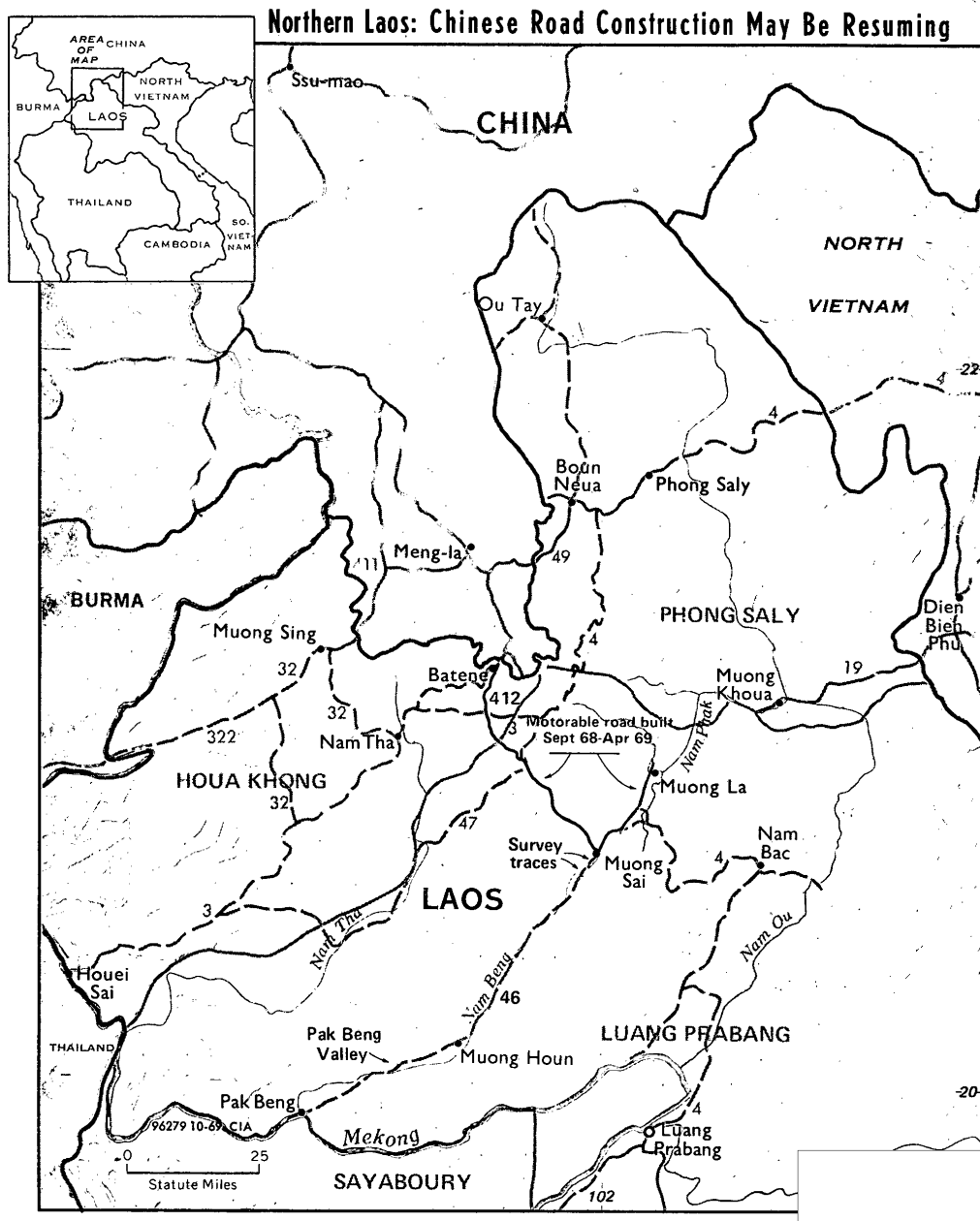
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LAOS - COMMUNIST CHINA

The Chinese may be getting ready to resume roadbuilding in northern Laos after the long rainy season stand-down. Recent aerial photography shows road survey troops some five miles south of Muong Sai, a major Pathet Lao military and administrative center.

This is the first hard evidence of possible future road construction activity south of Muong Sai, although reports from villagers [redacted] have indicated that it would eventually be undertaken.

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The Chinese may be calculating to reopen an old French logging trail that at one time linked Muong Sai with Muong Houn and Pak Beng on the Mekong River. This would give them a head start southward.

A road southward into the Pak Beng Valley would be of use in the support of Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese units fighting government guerrillas in Sayaboury and Luang Prabang provinces. It would also facilitate Chinese support for Communist elements in northern Thailand, although the armed insurgents there, who are not very numerous, probably do not need a motorable supply route from China.

Before moving into a new area, the Chinese who have about 6,000 engineer and support troops in northern Laos, may first finish the work they began last year. Until construction slowed in early May, they were building a road north from Muong Sai toward Muong Khoua, the terminus of a motorable road from North Vietnam. Once completed, this road will, for the first time, enable the North Vietnamese to directly support their units in northwest Laos.

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VIETNAM

Xuan Thuy arrived in Moscow Thursday on his way back to Paris, according to TASS. The news is out in Paris, but Hanoi has yet to publicize his return, and the Chinese as usual ignored his passage through Peking.

We do not think Thuy brings any new initiatives back with him. Such a change might be anticipated if Le Duc Tho were noted on his way back to Paris, but he remains in Hanoi.

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BRAZIL

The US embassy in Brasilia has received three threatening letters in the last day or so, and anonymous callers have told the city's radio and television stations that the embassy's principal officer is to be killed. The embassy in cooperation with local security officials is taking all practicable precautions.

These threats may be related to earlier reports from the Brazilian security service that terrorist leader Carlos Marighella, whose principal lieutenant was one of the men behind Ambassador Elbrick's kidnaping, is planning further actions. Marighella also is said to be preparing to establish a rural guerrilla force.

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

NOTE

Jordan: Last Saturday's abortive coup which involved some fedayeen has prompted Husayn to adopt more stringent internal security measures, particularly toward the terrorists. While it seems unlikely that he will extend this effort to the point of challenging the major fedayeen organizations, a period of increased tension, with overtones of martial law, seems to be in the offing.

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